

Outline Summary of 2019-2020 IFAB Law Changes

Law 3 – The Players

A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee. **BAYS and ASC In-Town are NOT adopting this law change and we will continue to have substituted players leave and enter the field at the halfway line on the teams' side of the field.**

Law 4 - The Players' Equipment

Undershirts can be multi-colored/patterned if exactly the same as the main shirt.

Law 5 – The Referee

The referee cannot change a restart decision after play has restarted but, in certain circumstances, may issue a YC/RC for a previous incident.

If the referee leaves the field for a VAR review or to call players back to the field at the end of a half, a decision can still be changed.

Team officials guilty of misconduct can be show a YC/RC; if an offender cannot be identified, the senior coach in the technical area receives the YC/RC.

If a penalty kick is awarded, the team's penalty taker can receive assessment or treatment and then stay on the field and take the kick.

Law 8 – The Start and Restart of Play (Kickoff and Dropped Ball)

The team that wins the toss may choose to take the kickoff or which goal to attack in the first half.

Dropped Ball – ball dropped for goalkeeper (if play stopped in the penalty area) or for one player of the team that last touched the ball at the location of the last touch; all other players of both teams must be at least 4 m (4.5 yds) away.

Law 9 – The Ball In and Out of Play

Dropped ball if the ball touches the referee (or other match official) and stays in play and goes into the goal, possession changes or a team starts a promising attack.

Law 10 – Determining the Outcome of a Match

Goalkeeper cannot score by throwing the ball into the opponents' goal.

Law 12 – Fouls and Misconduct

Handball text re-written for greater clarity/consistency with clear guidelines for when non-deliberate handball should and should not be penalized.

Handball:

It is an offence if a player:

- deliberately touches the ball with their hand/arm, including moving the hand/arm towards the ball
- gains possession/control of the ball after it has touched their hand/arm and then:
 - scores in the opponents' goal
 - creates a goal-scoring opportunity
- scores in the opponents' goal directly from their hand/arm, even if accidental, including by the goalkeeper

It is usually an offence if a player:

- touches the ball with their hand/arm when:
 - the hand/arm has made their body unnaturally bigger

- the hand/arm is above/beyond their shoulder level (unless the player deliberately plays the ball which then touches their hand/arm)

The above offences apply even if the ball touches a player's hand/arm directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close.

Except for the above offences, it is not usually an offence if the ball touches a player's hand/arm:

- directly from the player's own head or body (including the foot)
- directly from the head or body (including the foot) of another player who is close
- if the hand/arm is close to the body and does not make the body unnaturally bigger
- when a player falls and the hand/arm is between the body and the ground to support the body, but not extended laterally or vertically away from the body

Confirmation that an "illegal" handball offense by a goalkeeper in their own penalty area is not sanctioned with a YC/RC.

If, after a throw-in or deliberate pass from a teammate, the goalkeeper unsuccessfully kicks or tries to kick the ball to release it into play, the goalkeeper can handle the ball.

Referee can delay issuing a YC/RC until the next stoppage if the non-offending team takes a quick free kick and creates a goal scoring opportunity.

The YC for an "illegal" goal celebration remains even if the goal is disallowed.

List of the warning/YC/RC offenses for team officials.

All verbal offenses are punished with an indirect free kick.

Kicking an object is punished the same was as throwing an object.

Law 13 – Free Kicks

Once an indirect free kick has been taken, the referee can stop showing the IDFK signal if it is clear that a goal cannot be scored directly (e.g. from most offside IDFKs).

For defending team free kicks in the penalty area, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area.

When there is a defensive wall of at least 3 players, all attacking players must be at least 1 meter from the wall; penalized by an IDFK if they encroach.

Law 14 – The Penalty Kick

Goalposts, crossbar and nets must not be moving when a penalty is taken and the goalkeeper must not be touching them.

Goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on, or in line with, the goal line when a penalty kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line.

If an offense occurs after the referee signals for a penalty kick to be taken but the kick is not taken, it must then be taken after any YC/RC is issued.

Law 15 – The Throw-In

Opponents must be at least 2 meters from the point on the touchline where a throw-in is to be taken, even if the thrower is back from the line.

Law 16 – The Goal Kick

At goal kicks, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area.